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No. 115

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Austin DeLoach, Jr., Pastor, Southside Baptist Church, Lakeland, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come to You thankful for this great country that You have blessed us to live in.

Please keep us ever mindful that freedom only comes with a price and cannot be sustained without responsibility.

Give our Nation wisdom to understand that liberty must be protected in part by laws that are grounded in Your truth.

I come humbly before You today asking You to give this body, the Congress of the United States, wisdom and guidance as they fulfill their call to serve others through public office.

According to Your Word, as written in Romans 13:1, You, Lord, have ordained government and chosen to work through those who serve. So I lift up every man and woman of this Congress to You. Bless their families and the people they represent, that these United States may serve Your purpose in this world, as the book of Esther says, for such a time as this.

I thank You for hearing this prayer and I ask it in Jesus' name.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4837. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4837) "An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2279. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to maritime transportation security, and for other purposes.

### FULFILLING AMERICA'S PROMISE

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this year we celebrate our 10th anniversary as the governing party of this great Chamber.

In 1994, the Dow Jones industrial average was at 3,834. Today, it is 10,453. Homeownership was at 64 percent. Today it is a record high of 69.2. Violent crime is down. Interest rates are down from 8.5 to 4.42.

Charitable giving among Americans is at its highest, from \$150.7 billion in 1996 to over \$241 billion now. Bankruptcy rates are down from 17.9 to 2.8. Per capita incomes are growing. Poverty is shrinking. African Americans living in poverty are decreasing and their homeownership is at record highs. Unemployment is down from 6 to 5.4.

These may be dry statistics to some, but they are progress to many Americans, thanks to the direction we have taken this country and this Congress. Yes, America is safer, and I thank the President for standing steadfast against terrorism, against tyranny.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today House Democrats will announce a new partnership with the American people, a partnership that would strengthen six of our Nation's most important core values. We will put Americans back to work, make health care more affordable, hold polluters responsible for the contamination they cause, give our children the education and development tools they need to have a positive future, and restore fiscal responsibility here in Washington.

Democrats' new partnership is necessary today because a large majority of Americans have lost faith in Congress. Over the past decade, Republicans have controlled the people's House and have often strayed from these core American values.

My Democratic colleagues and I have been fighting for these causes for many

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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